

CITY OF ALAMEDA

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Lisa Goldman
Acting City Manager

Date: January 4, 2011

Re: Adopt a Resolution Supporting Alameda Unified School District's Measure
A, the Replacement Education Parcel Tax

BACKGROUND

On November 30, 2010, the Board of Education of the Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) voted to place a parcel tax before Alameda voters. The vote on the parcel tax, known as Measure A Replacement Education Parcel Tax, will be conducted on March 8, 2011. Mayor Gilmore requested that the City Council considering supporting Measure A.

DISCUSSION

Over the past several years the State has dramatically reduced funding for schools in an effort to balance its budget. Additional cuts are likely in the future as the State grapples with a deficit estimated by the Legislative Analyst's Office to exceed \$25 billion by the end of FY11-12 absent corrective actions. The School District has proposed a two-phase closure/consolidation plan in order to reduce its budget by \$3,370,000. The proposed spending cuts will affect elementary school configuration, class size in grades K-3, and academic programs. The reductions will also cause closure of elementary and middle schools.

Currently, the School District receives funding from two existing parcel taxes, known as Measures A and H. Both Measures will expire in June 2012. If passed by the voters in March 2011, Measure A would generate approximately \$12 million per year over the next seven years in order to stave off budget reductions. The measure contains the following provisions:

- The tax will replace Measures A and H;
- The tax rate for parcels with buildings is \$0.32 per building square foot; the tax will be applied only on the buildings, not on the square footage of the entire lot;
- The tax will be uniformly applied to residential and non-residential parcels;
- The maximum amount of any one parcel shall be \$7,999, regardless of the number of buildings, which equates to a tax on only the first 24,997 of building square feet;

- The tax rate for all other parcels (those parcels without buildings) is \$299 per parcel;
- Seniors and recipients of Supplemental Security Income for a disability are eligible for an exemption from the tax;
- The term of the tax is seven years, effective July 1, 2011; and
- The parcel tax funds will be allocated as follows:
 - Small class sizes, 13-14%
 - Neighborhood elementary schools, 7-8%
 - Enrichment programs, 9-10%
 - Secondary School Choice Initiative and Advanced Placement courses, 7-8%
 - Programs to close the achievement gap, 15-16%
 - High school athletic programs, 4%
 - Attract and retain excellent teachers, 25-26%
 - Adult education, 4%
 - Technology, 5%
 - Counseling and student support services, 6%
 - Charter Schools, 3-4%

Measure A includes a financial oversight component that requires specific reporting and formation of an oversight committee composed of parents/guardians, staff members, students and community members representing all school sites. The committee will review the annual expenditures to ensure compliance with the terms of the measure.

The City and AUSD have worked together for many years to serve their joint constituencies for the greater benefit of the Alameda community. For that reason, the City Council passed a resolution in May 2010 in support of Measure E. Supporting Measure A is consistent with the City Council's prior action and with the long-standing collaborative relationship between the City and AUSD.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact to the General Fund from adopting this resolution of support for Measure A.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution of support for the Alameda Unified School District's Measure A Replacement Education Parcel Tax.

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUPPORTING THE ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
MEASURE A, THE REPLACEMENT EDUCATION PARCEL TAX

WHEREAS, the State of California has dramatically reduced funding for education over the past several years in an effort to balance its budget; and

WHEREAS, additional reductions can be expected as the State grapples with a deficit estimated by the Legislative Analyst's Office to exceed \$25 billion by the end of FY11-12 absent corrective actions; and

WHEREAS, the School District proposed spending cuts will affect elementary school configuration, class size in grades K-3, and academic programs; and

WHEREAS, the School District will also be forced to close elementary and middle schools; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda Unified School District Measures A and H expire June 2012; and

WHEREAS, the School District is proposing a Replacement Education Parcel Tax to offset budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, Measure A includes exemptions for seniors and residents receiving SSI for a disability; and

WHEREAS, Measure A would raise approximately \$12 million per year for the Alameda Unified School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alameda supports Measure A, the Alameda Unified School District's proposed Replacement Education Parcel Tax.

Approved as to Form


City Attorney

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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Alameda in regular meeting assembled on the 4th day of January, 2011, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the said City this 5th day of January, 2011.

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda